



## Monthly Group Meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 6:30 p.m.  
707 W. Houston St., Tyler, Texas  
(903) 258-2547

**See our announcements on page 3  
for a map and details about our  
new meeting location!**

### Contact

(903) 581-2831 or (903) 780-7104  
Web Site: [www.TylerTCF.org](http://www.TylerTCF.org)  
E-mail: [info@TylerTCF.org](mailto:info@TylerTCF.org)

Chapter Leader .....Tina Loper  
Chapter Co-Leader.....Pat Settle  
Newsletter/Web Site .....Mary Lingle  
Steering Committee: Tina Loper,  
Pat Settle, Sam Smith, Sherri Tutt  
Margie Newman, Mary Lingle

TCF National Organization  
Toll Free: (877) 969-0010  
[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

## The Meeting Agenda

6:30 p.m. ....  
Meeting will begin with drinks and refreshments followed by announcement of birthdays and anniversaries and reading of the Credo. We will then have open discussion.  
8:00 p.m. ....  
Meeting will close by recognizing our childrens' names. Feel free to visit after the meeting or check out books from our library.

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## A Father's View of The Compassionate Friends: Courage, Surprise, An Understanding

### Attendance Requirement: Courage

I don't think I am unique. I did not want to attend a meeting of Compassionate Friends. I was coerced by my wife. It was subtle but effective. My son, on the other hand, made a devil's deal; he agreed to go to the next meeting in exchange for a favor—his debt some weeks away. The thought of discussing death nauseates me. We, my son and I, had made a bad deal.

### The Meeting: A Surprise

I was surprised to find I was not the only man to have lost a child. There was a reality to that recognition. My loss, not unlike yours, is a personal matter. No one can tell me how I feel or how I ought to feel. Yet, the group never made me feel guilty about my selfishness; they understood.

### The Result: An Understanding

Compassionate Friends is not an efficient organization. There are no systems, no quick, easy cures. Grief is a catharsis. Most of what you hear here you will dismiss; it will not apply to you. But, there are nuggets—small ideas you will want to try or things you will want to think about. Some you will try. Many you will discard. Only a few will help the pain. These, you will treasure. Your friends and associates may try to understand your grief and try to help. They can do neither. They don't understand. The people at the meetings do understand. And they try to help. My son felt he had gained little from the meeting. Yet, he left feeling he had helped someone else deal with his grief. What a marvelous satisfaction for a 15-year-old.

### What's in it for you?

Compassionate Friends is here to help—to listen, to suggest, to understand. If you handle your grief well, you do not need Compassionate Friends. But we need you. Your approach or method of dealing with grief could help one or more of us. Please share it.

*Bob Watts ~ TCF, Stanford, CT*

## A Friend Who Cares

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.

*Henri Nouwen*

**The mission of The Compassionate Friends** is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.



*We need not walk alone.*

“Joy and sorrow are inseparable . . . together they come, and when one sits alone with you . . . remember that the other is asleep upon your bed.” —*Kahlil Gibran*

## Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to those who attended their first TCF meeting last month.

We deeply regret the circumstances that brought you to our TCF Chapter. The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, not-for-profit, self-help organization that offers support and understanding to families who have experienced the death of a child. You are cordially invited to attend our monthly meeting (always the third Tuesday of the month). The meeting is open to everyone and free of charge. You are free to talk, cry or to sit in silence; we respect the individuality of mourning. Comments shared in the meetings remain confidential.

Our chapter is operated entirely by volunteers dedicated to furthering the work of TCF. Your voluntary, tax deductible donations honor your loved one(s) in a meaningful way by enabling us to print and mail this newsletter and meet other expenses involved in reaching out to other grieving families (100% of funds are used for this outreach). Donations, along with the name of the person being honored, may be sent to:

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler  
P.O. Box 9714  
Tyler, Texas 75711

## To Our New Members

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But, you have nothing to lose and much to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you. The second, third or fourth meeting might be the time you will find the right person—or just the right words spoken that will help you in your grief work.

## To Our Old Members

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting we have new parents. Think back—what would it have been like for you if there had not been any “oldies” to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you? It was from them you heard, “Your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer.”

## Blessings in the Pain

It has been a little over three years since I last saw my son Jeremy. He was killed in a two-car, head-on collision on January 10, 2002 just 1.8 miles from home. I don't need to tell you how life forever changed on that day. If you are reading this you already know how losing a child changes your life.

I really thought that joy was not to ever be a part of my life again. I was shattered and a part of me died with Jeremy that day. I can now look back and see that there were many blessings in my pain. I could not see them at the time because I was in so much pain and agony. I want to share those blessings with you. I hope one day after time has helped to soften the pain you can look back and find blessings too.

1. I have made so many new friends. Yes a lot of them have lost a child but we share a bond that is very deep. I was being shown that sharing the pain is healing.
2. My granddaughter was born about 6 months after Jeremy died. She was born on my birthday. God was showing me why life has to go on with this precious grandchild being born.
3. I had a butterfly dance at my driver's window one day as I was crying while driving. He stayed there and just fluttered until the light changed and then disappeared. I was being shown that my son was still with me just in a different way.
4. I could laugh again and not feel guilty. I was being shown God's love and peace.
5. I could think of my son and not have my insides feel as though they were being pulled out. I could think of the happy memories. I was being shown precious memories are priceless.
6. I learned to slow down and enjoy life; material things are not so important, people are. I was being shown that we are only here a short time and people are more important than anything you can buy.
7. I learned true compassion in finding The Compassionate Friend's group. I was being shown love in a way I had never known before.
8. My marriage became stronger because we leaned on each other to get through the hard days. I was being shown that God had given me the right mate for this life.
9. I found strength I never knew I had. I was being shown that God can turn the impossible into the possible—one day at a time.
10. I found peace, blessed peace. I was being shown that God is with us even when we think he has deserted us.

These are just a few of the blessings I found in all that pain—there are too many to list. I never thought I would be able to say I found blessings in my pain in those early days and months and even years—but I did. I hope and pray the same blessings for you.

*In loving memory of Jeremy Wayne Newman  
4-15-80 to 01-10-02  
Forever In our Hearts  
Margie Newman ~ TCF, Tyler, TX*

Our bumper stickers are available for a \$2 donation. You may get them at our monthly meetings or by sending a request to: TCF of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711.





*We need not walk alone.*

"The Grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love and something to hope for." —Allan K. Chalmers



### Love Gifts

- Mary Delaney in memory of Ryan Delaney
- Donna Griffin in memory of Jake Higgins
- Bonnie LePelley in memory of Trey Lepelley
- Teri Clakley in memory of Justin Clakley
- Noonday in memory of Justin Clakley
- David & Teresa Terrell in memory of Andy Terrell
- Joe & Patsy Murray in memory of Chad Cavazos
- Anonymous in memory of Sarah Harvey
- Ladies First in memory of Donna Morales
- Sam Smith in memory of Stacy Smith
- Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Brown
- Corine Carpenter in memory of Terry Brown
- Sherry Barry in memory of Terry Brown
- Faye Brown in memory of Terry Brown
- George & Judy Mouser in memory of Terry Brown
- Rehana Brown in memory of Terry Brown
- Sharon & Patrick Riley in memory of Terry Brown
- Thomas & Charlotte Nunnery in memory of Terry Brown
- Joseph & Freei Ann King in memory of Terry Brown
- Patricia Brown in memory of Terry Brown
- Josie Lacrosse in memory of Terry Brown
- Bob & Glenda Cochran in memory of Trey LePelly
- Jolyn Harris in memory of Brian Harris
- Carolyn R. Kuhn in memory of Phillip Kuhn

### Thanks to following who helped make the Butterfly Release possible:

- Brian & Lisa Harvey
- Claudette Brown
- Todd & Sabrina Thoene
- Debbie Holcomb
- David & Teresa Terrell
- Sherri Tutt
- Carolyn Kuhn
- Sam Smith
- Virginia Knott
- FBC South Campus
- Tyler Morning Telegraph
- Channel 7 & Channel 19
- Clear Channel
- Brookshire's
- Mary Delaney
- Amy McKnight
- All Saints
- Bonner Elementary
- Trader's Guide of Texas



### Announcements

**The Compassionate Friends of Tyler has a new meeting location!** We will be meeting at 707 W. Houston St., see map below. The new TCF phone number is (903) 258-2547.

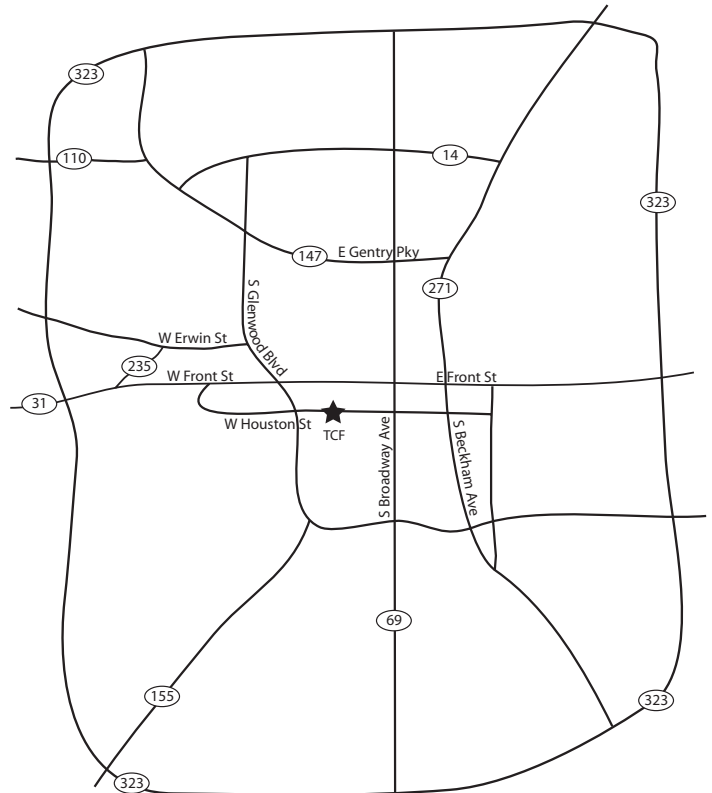
We're excited to have a more permanent meeting place.

A BIG thank you to Clinical Associates of East Texas for allowing us to meet in their offices for the past three years.

**Don't forget about our first Friday of the month dinner meeting.** This casual night out will be held at El Charro's on Fifth Street on June 3. We hope to see you there!

**Other dates to remember: October:** Green Acres Craft Fair; **November:** Lacks Furniture Christmas Tree and Canned Food Drive; **December 11:** World Wide Candle Lighting

**We still have several wooden butterflies from the Butterfly Release personalized with your child's name.** If you would like your child's butterfly, they are available for \$5.00 each plus \$2.00 postage during the month of June.



**Please share your stories, poems or love messages for inclusion in our newsletter.**





*We need not walk alone.*

“Courage, it would seem, is nothing less than the power to overcome danger, misfortune, fear, injustice, while continuing to affirm inwardly that life with all its sorrows is good; that everything is meaningful even if in a sense beyond our understanding; and that there is always tomorrow.” —*Dorothy Thompson*

### June Birthdays



**Jackie Heerd**  
6-30-46 ~ 2-22-81  
Daughter of Larry Batte



**Thomas E. Carroll, II**  
6-2-73 ~ 11-13-93  
Son of Linda Carroll



**Brian Harris**  
6-8-72 ~ 7-29-99  
Son of Jolyn & Richard Harris



**Trey LePelley**  
6-10-82 ~ 3-13-05  
Son of Julie LePelley



**Jake Higgins**  
6-29-77 ~ 12-4-03  
Son of Donna Griffin



**Michael Holdway**  
6-18-52 ~ 8-3-93  
Husband of Kathy Holdway



**Joshua Andrews**  
6-21-88 ~ 3-14-04  
Son of Tawna Andrews



**Roozbeh Arianpour**  
3-25-80 ~ 6-6-03  
Son of Farideh Arianpour



**Michael A. Rucker**  
1-18-93 ~ 6-1-02  
Son of Brandy Rucker Pearson



**Randy Rounsavall**  
10-14-51 ~ 6-19-03  
Son of Margaret Rounsavall



**Christopher Pope**  
11-10-90 ~ 6-19-03  
Son of Brenda Pope



**Christopher Fisher**  
12-18-82 ~ 6-22-03  
Grandson of Grace Fisher



**Mark Turner**  
10-3-66 ~ 6-19-97  
Son of Clayton & Pat Turner



**Tami Roberts**  
5-17-72 ~ 6-10-00  
Daughter of Kenn & Ann Sommerville



**Jodi Lynne Attaway**  
3-8-72 ~ 6-5-94  
Daughter of Cindi Attaway-Gill

### Newsletter Submissions

TCF Tyler welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to:

TCF Tyler • 5401 Hollytree Drive, 1204 • Tyler, Texas 75703  
Or e-mail text and photos to: [info@TylerTCF.org](mailto:info@TylerTCF.org)

We reserve the right to edit for space and/or content. Deadline for submissions is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. TCF Chapters may copy articles from this publication provided credit is given to the author and the original source.

Please notify us if any of your information is incorrect.



**Timothy Andrew Lever**  
3-23-69 ~ 6-3-04  
Son of Elsie Ford

**Please share your stories, poems or love messages for inclusion in our newsletter.**



*We need not walk alone.*

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” —*Albert Schweitzer*

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## The Compassionate Friends' Butterfly Release

On Saturday, May 14, 2005, The Compassionate Friends of Tyler held their Second Annual Butterfly Release. The Compassionate Friends is a national organization whose mission is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive. T.C.F. holds monthly support group meetings the third Tuesday of each month. T.C.F. is operated entirely by volunteers. They are folks who have also experienced the death of a child, and who want to help others heal and find peace.

The butterfly release was a beautiful, heart-warming event. The butterfly is the symbol of The Compassionate Friends. For many, the butterfly is considered to be a symbol of God's promise of eternal life. The lowly caterpillar enters the dark cocoon to emerge as a beautiful butterfly. This reminds us of Christ rising from the tomb, defeating death for all that will believe in Him. Someday God's children will be given glorified bodies—free and uninhibited for all eternity.

As we watched the butterflies flying free, we thought about our children who are in heaven, and we were reminded of how beautiful and free they are and will always be. We thought about the glorious day when we, too, will be free; and we will spend eternity with our children and our Lord in paradise.

We all need reminders of God's perfect love and grace and mercy. If we will open our hearts and our minds, we will see constant reminders all around us of how much He cares for His children. We all experience tragedy and loss in our lives of different kinds. God knows what we are going through, and He wants to give us peace. We only need to turn to Him for peace, no matter what our circumstances may be.

If you or someone you know has experienced the death of a child, I encourage you to get in touch with The Compassionate Friends. Their motto is, "We need not walk alone." They have a monthly newsletter and a wonderful web site to help grieving parents. I know that God led me to them, and many others say the same. We have found that great healing comes from spending time in the presence of others who have lived through the death of a child, for they alone can truly understand what we are going through.

"What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly."

*Dr. Sam Smith, Butterfly Ministry ~ TCF, Tyler, TX*

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**Please detach and return completed donation form to:  
The Compassionate Friends of Tyler • P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711**

We rely entirely on voluntary donations to support our group. With your help we can continue to provide our valuable services to everyone affected by the loss of a child.

Yes, I would like to make a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ . (Please make check payable to TCF)

My donation is made in honor and in memory of \_\_\_\_\_.

Tyler TCF greatly appreciates your support. These 'love gifts' are used to provide our monthly newsletter, printed materials, website, special events, our library and more.



I don't think you ever stop giving. I really don't. I think it's an on-going process. And it's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life. —*Oprah Winfrey*





# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

P.O. Box 9714  
Tyler, Texas 75711



*We need not walk alone.*



[www.TylerTCF.org](http://www.TylerTCF.org)